

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-47 were pending in the present application. The present response amends claims 1, 5, 12-13, and 15-17, and withdraws claims 14, 21, and 24-37.

I. Restriction of the Claims

Claims 1-47 are subject to restriction. While no claim groups were identified, it was requested in the Office Action to select from the “patentably distinct species” of Figures 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 12. While the Office Action states that no claims are generic, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 38, 39, 40, and 47 are generic, as these claims are directed to MOPA systems using multiple passes of an oscillator beam from the master oscillator through the power amplifier in order to further amplify the optical beam. Such limitations are generic to the embodiments of figures 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 12. In accordance with the restriction requirement, however, Applicants elect to prosecute the species of Figure 1. As such, Applicants have withdrawn claims 14, 21, and 24-37, which include elements of the species of Figures 3, 4, 5, 6, or 12. Applicants reserve the right to reinstate these claims in dependent form upon allowance of the generic claims.

II. Amendment to the Claims

Unless otherwise specified, amendments to the claims are made for purposes of clarity, and are not intended to alter the scope of the claims or limit any equivalents thereof. The amendments are supported by the specification and do not add new matter to the specification.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the pending claims and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-1703, under Order No. LMPY-18330. **A duplicate copy of the transmittal cover sheet attached to this Response to Office Action Mailed November 8, 2005, is provided herewith.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 2, 2005

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